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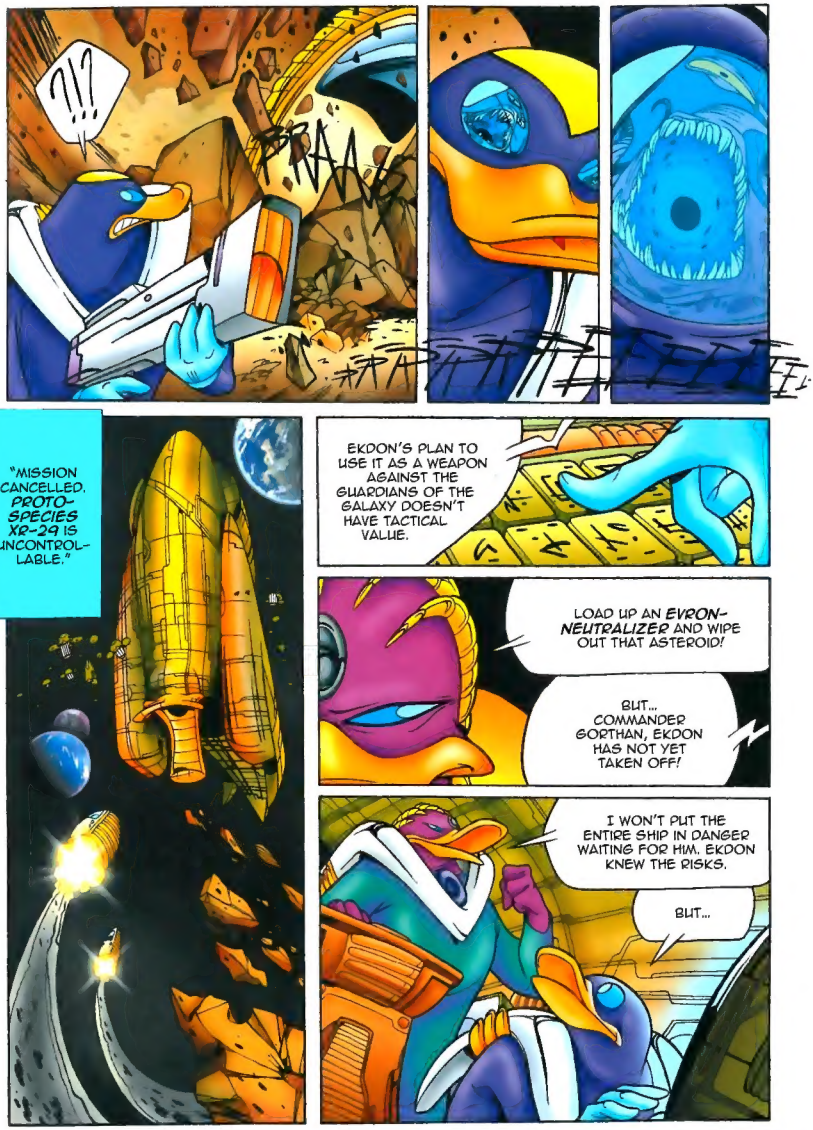
ASTEROID LV-426,
A LONG TIME AGO...
FALL BACK!
INTO THE SCOUT-PODS! HURRY!
FZZT
FZZT

I - PK - 16

FOOSH
FOOSH
COMMANDER EKDON! YOU CAN'T DEFEAT THEM ON YOUR OWN!
TAKE OFF! THAT'S AN ORDER!


?!?
PRAAS
"MISSION CANCELLED. PROTO-SPECIES XR-24 IS UNCONTROLLABLE."
EKDON'S PLAN TO USE IT AS A WEAPON AGAINST THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY DOESN'T HAVE TACTICAL VALUE.
LOAD UP AN EVRON-NEUTRALIZER AND WIPE OUT THAT ASTEROID!
BUT... COMMANDER GORTHAN, EKDON HAS NOT YET TAKEN OFF!
I WON'T PUT THE ENTIRE SHIP IN DANGER WAITING FOR HIM. EKDON KNEW THE RISKS.
BUT...

"DON'T..."

"... QUESTION..."

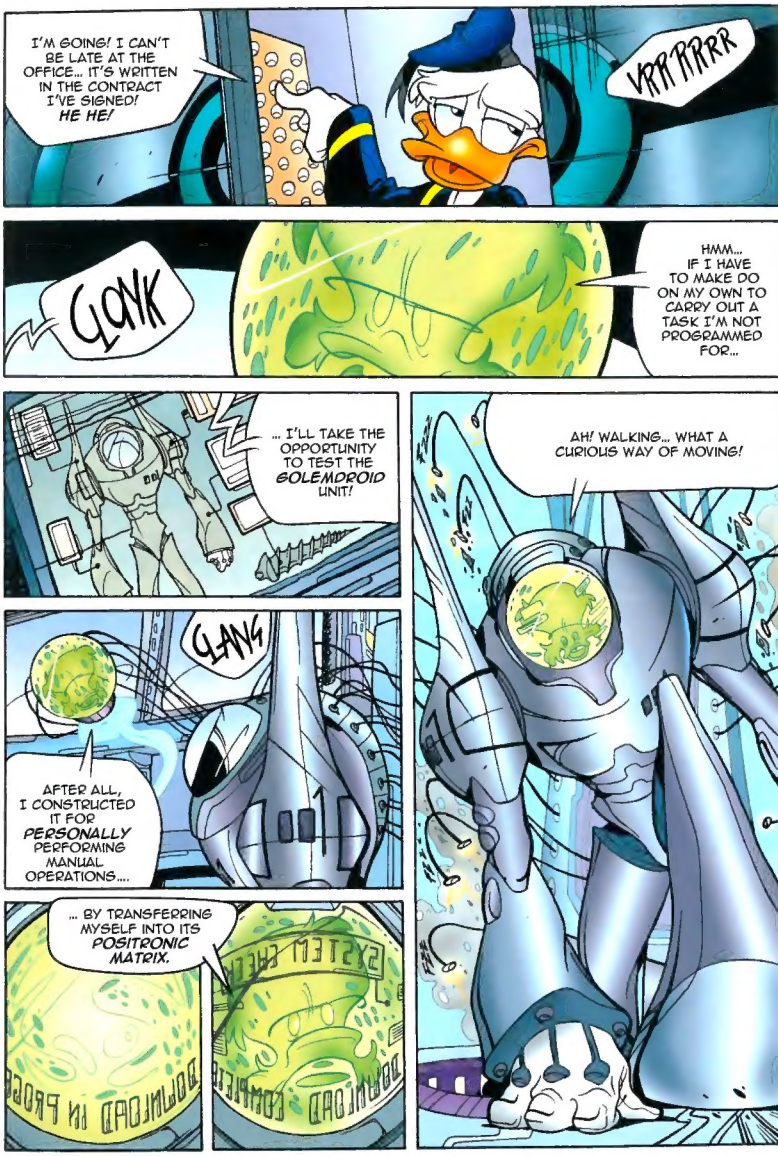
"... MY ORDERS!"

PROTOSPELLE

BRAAING
DUCKBURG, TODAY...

A CUTTING EDGE CITY, A CENTER OF GLOBAL ECONOMY...
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE MOVING EVERY DAY AMONGST ITS BUILDINGS ...
BUT THERE'S ALSO SOMEONE WORKING BENEATH ITS STREETS...
RATHER... ONE!
PUFF! IF MY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DIDN'T PREVENT ME FROM WASTING TIME, I'D STOP AND COMPLAIN.
IN THE END, I SHOULDN'T BE HERE BY MYSELF DIGGING THIS TUNNEL...

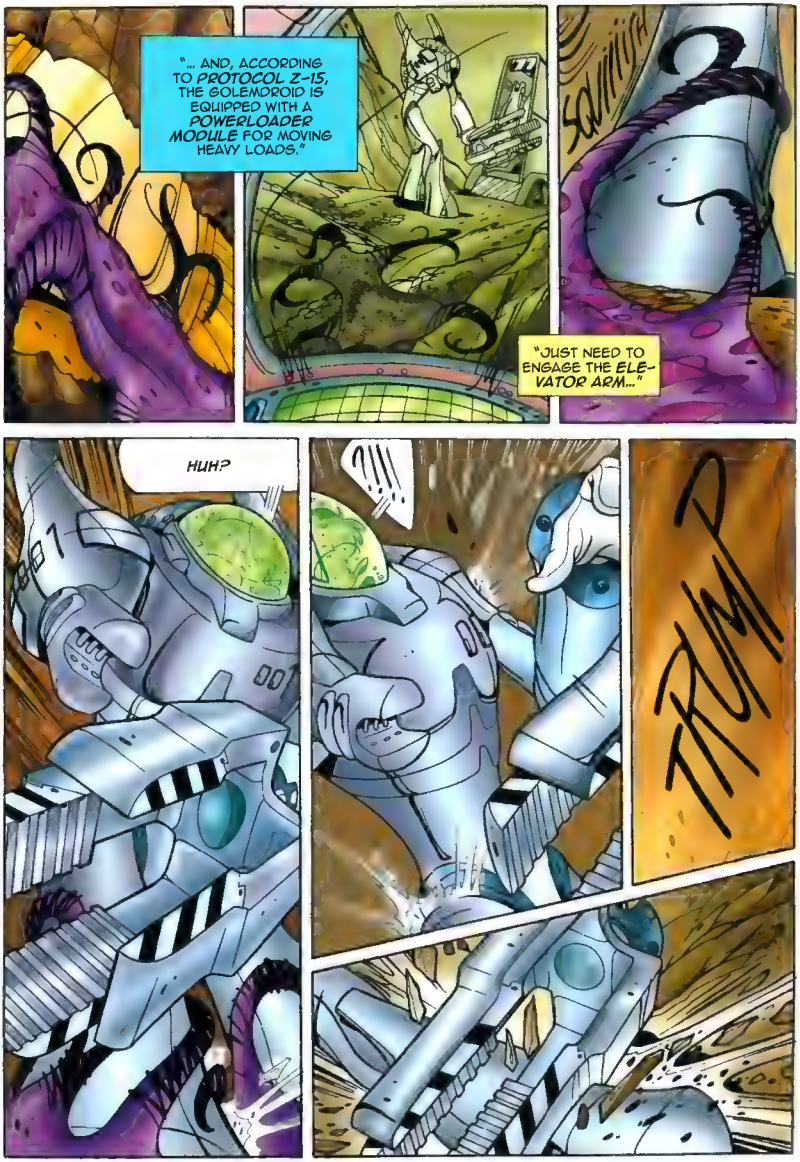
"... AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE GUARDIANS' PROTOCOL!"
WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME? THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN *UNDERGROUND EMERGENCY EXIT* IS LAID DOWN IN REGULATION...
SECURITY
EXIT
... WHICH YOU SIGNED WHEN ACCEPTING TO BECOME THE DEFENDER OF THE PLANET.
FORGET IT! AFTER SPENDING THE NIGHT CHASING AN *EEL THIEF* I WON'T BECOME A *MOLE DUCK!*
THE WORK OF THE *DUCK AVENGER* IS OVER FOR TODAY...
... AND NOW BEGINS THAT OF *DONALD DUCK*, ASSISTANT EDITOR OF *WEIRD DUCK NOVEL*, THE MAGAZINE OF ALIENS AND MYSTERIES!

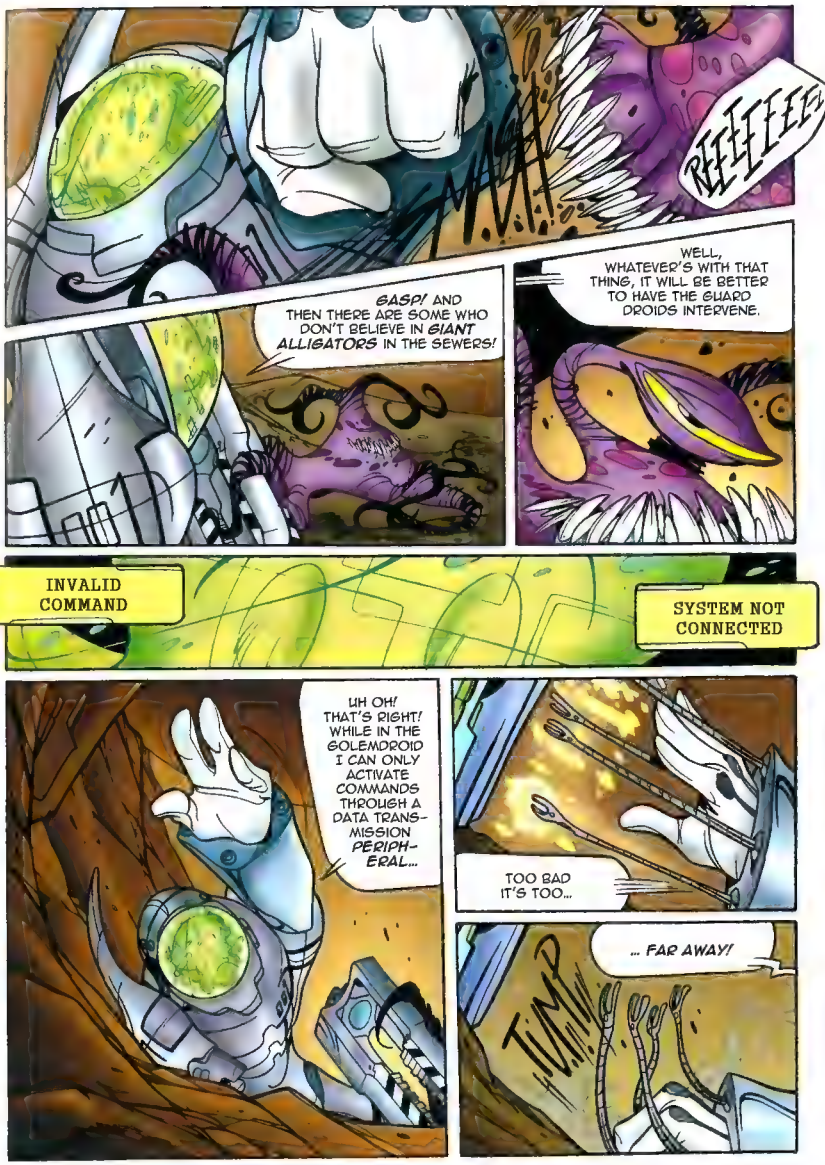

I'M GOING! I CAN'T BE LATE AT THE OFFICE... IT'S WRITTEN IN THE CONTRACT I'VE SIGNED! HE HE!
VRRRRRR
GLYK
HMM... IF I HAVE TO MAKE DO ON MY OWN TO CARRY OUT A TASK I'M NOT PROGRAMMED FOR...
... I'LL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEST THE GOLEMDROID UNIT!
AH! WALKING... WHAT A CURIOUS WAY OF MOVING!
GLANG
AFTER ALL, I CONSTRUCTED IT FOR PERSONALLY PERFORMING MANUAL OPERATIONS....
... BY TRANSFERRING MYSELF INTO ITS POSITRONIC MATRIX.

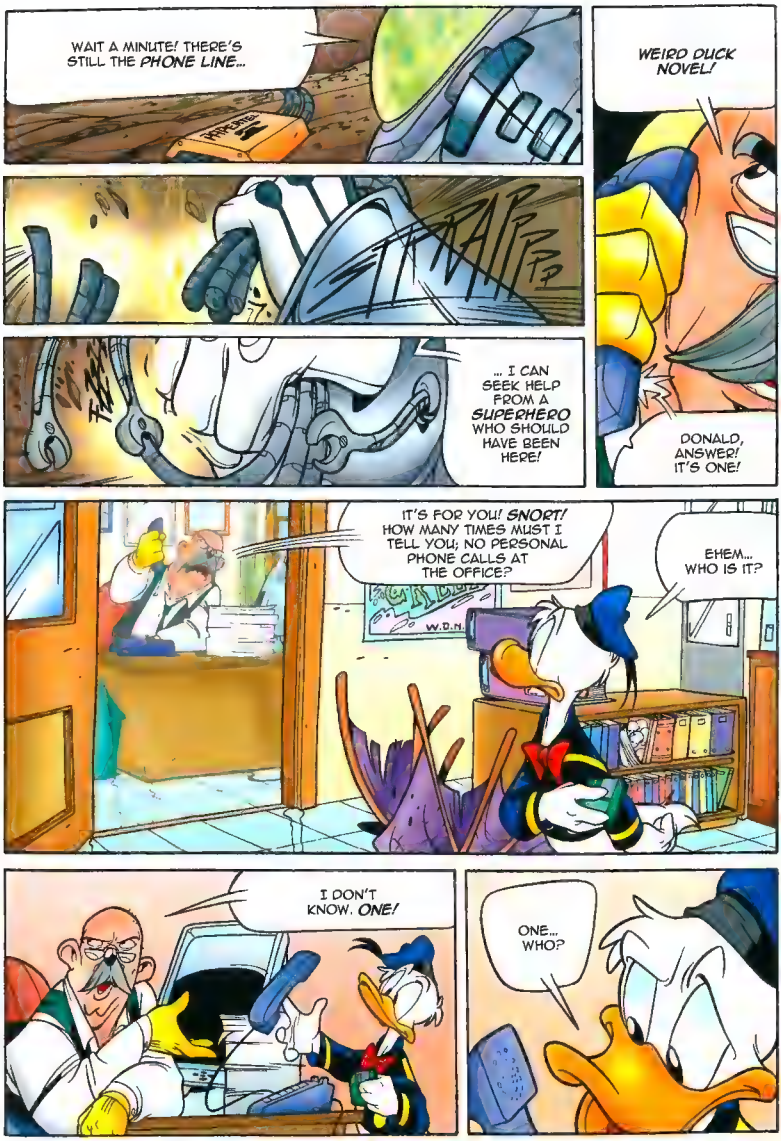
"WELL, LET'S GET TO WORK!"
LET ME COME IN!
I HAVE A NEW STORY!
MINE WILL AMAZE YOU!
WEIRD DUCK NOVEL
C-CALM DOWN! ONE AT A TIME!
IT'S AN INCREDIBLE NOVEL! YOU'LL EAT IT UP!
THUMP
TERRY TROUBLE
ARGH! SPLUT! I VERY NEARLY PREFER HAVING TO DEAL WITH SUPER-CRIMINALS, RATHER THAN THIS HORDE OF ASPIRING WRITERS!

I WAS HOPING THAT WITH MY EXPERIENCE IN SPACE ADVENTURES, I'D MAKE IT BIG IN A SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE.
SOB! WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT MY JOB WOULD BE TO KEEP A GANG OF HOTHEADS AWAY FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR?
WHICH YOU'RE DOING VERY BADLY, DUCK!
TUMP
HOW MANY TIMES MUST I REPEAT TO ALSO WATCH THE WINDOWS?
THESE PEOPLE COME UP WITH ANYTHING TO PALM OFF THEIR ABSURD STORIES!
MIXED FRIED MUTANTS
A story by
ANOTHER INTRUSION AND YOU'RE FIRED! CLEAR?
SBAAM!
PSST... GIVE HIM THIS. I'M SURE HE'LL APPRECIATE IT!
TUNGSTEN CALAMARI

"I CAN IMAGINE IT. HE'LL JUMP FOR JOY!"
CLANG
CLANG
KREEK
STRANGE. THE GEOLOGICAL MAP OF DUCKBURG DID NOT INDICATE ROCKY FAULTS THIS HARD.
HOWEVER... IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY A LARGE BOULDER...


"... AND, ACCORDING TO PROTOCOL Z-15, THE GOLEMDROID IS EQUIPPED WITH A POWERLOADER MODULE FOR MOVING HEAVY LOADS."
SQUIIISH
"JUST NEED TO ENGAGE THE ELEVATOR ARM..."
HUH?
TRUMP


REEEEEEE!
WELL, WHATEVER'S WITH THAT THING, IT WILL BE BETTER TO HAVE THE GUARD DROIDS INTERVENE.
GASP! AND THEN THERE ARE SOME WHO DON'T BELIEVE IN GIANT ALLIGATORS IN THE SEWERS!
INVALID COMMAND
SYSTEM NOT CONNECTED
UH OH! THAT'S RIGHT! WHILE IN THE GOLEMDROID I CAN ONLY ACTIVATE COMMANDS THROUGH A DATA TRANSMISSION PERIPHERAL...
TOO BAD IT'S TOO...
... FAR AWAY!
JUMP


WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S STILL THE PHONE LINE...
WEIRD DUCK NOVEL!
... I CAN SEEK HELP FROM A SUPERHERO WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE!
DONALD, ANSWER! IT'S ONE!
IT'S FOR YOU! SNORT! HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU; NO PERSONAL PHONE CALLS AT THE OFFICE?
EHEM... WHO IS IT?
W.D.N.
I DON'T KNOW. ONE!
ONE... WHO?

DONALD, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HLP!
ONE? ARE YOU REALLY... THAT ONE?
HMPF! THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING!
COME HERE QUICKLY! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
I'M BEING ATTACKED...
THUNK
VRAP
TEEEEEEEEE
"ONE?"

ONE? WHERE ARE YOU?
MUST HAVE GONE OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE! GRUNT! WILL YOU GET BACK TO WORK?
SORRY, BOSS. I HAVE TO GO! IT'S URGENT!
BURNING CHROMEDUCK
THIS STORY MUST ALSO GO TO PRESS URGENTLY!
GOT IT! I'LL DELIVER IT ON THE WAY OUT!
PRINTING
PANT, PANT!

HI, BILL! HERE'S THE COVER STORY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!
FLIMP
AND HERE'S THE RIGHT PLACE FOR THE WILD FANTASIES OF A NUISANCE WHO ALMOST GOT ME FIRED!
"TUNGSTEN CALAMARI"? THE BOSS IS REALLY SHORT ON STORIES...
BURNING CHROMEDUCK
"THERE WAS A TIME HE WOULDN'T PUBLISH RUBBISH LIKE THIS EVEN IN CASE OF EMERGENCY!"

EMERGENCY ACCESS
ALL SYSTEMS ARE IN STANDBY. WHERE'S ONE GONE?
OH NO! I HAD A FEELING HIM PLAYING MINER WOULD END BADLY...
ULP! THINGS JUST GOT WORSE!

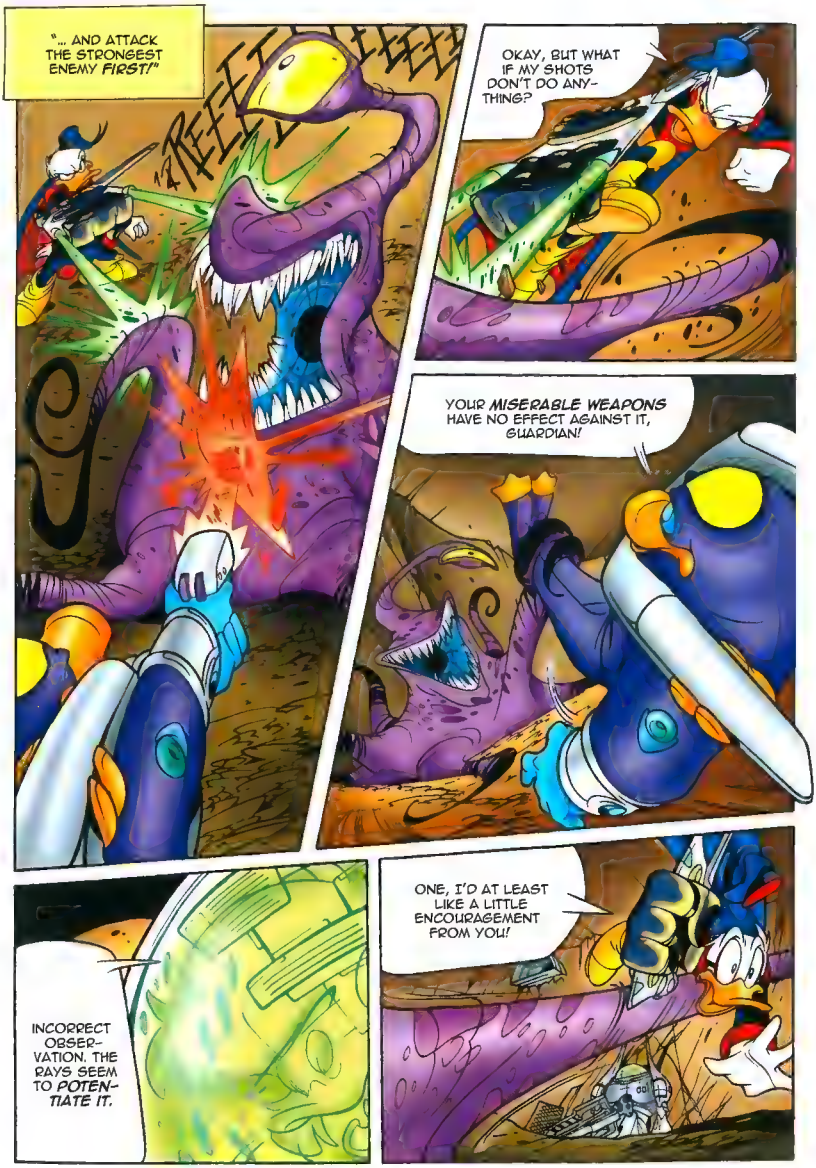
AN EVRONIAN IN MY SECRET BASE IS A COSMIC DISASTER!
BUT I'M NOT GONNA LET HIM WALK ABOUT...
... BOASTING ABOUT HIS DISCOV-ERY!
NNNG...
BE HONEST, ONE. DO YOU WANT ME TO FEEL GUILTY FOR LEAVING YOU TO WORK ALONE?
A GUARDIAN?

A GUARDIAAAN!
OKAY, A GUARDIAN. BUT YOU FORGOT "OF THE GALAXY"!
SKYBANG
... OR KEEPS QUIET!
THAT'S THE RULE! EITHER THE VILLAIN SAYS THE COMPLETE NAME...
KRAK
RAAAH! SINCE I WAS A SPORE I'VE BEEN TRAINED FOR THIS MOMENT!
FOOO

EVERY STRATEGIC LESSON...
... EVERY TACTICAL EXERCISE...
... HAS PREPARED ME FOR ONE SOLE THING...
... ELIMINATING THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!
RRRRRRRR!
?!
ULP! WHAT IS THAT THING?

THE EMERGENCY I CALLED YOU FOR.
BUT THE EVRONIAN... ON THE MONITOR... WAS ATTACKING YOU...
NO! HE WAS TRYING TO FREE ME!
THEN YOU ARRIVED AND YOU TWO STARTED PLAYING GREAT WARRIORS...
"UH OH!"

"OMNIMANUAL, CHAPTER ONE."
"BEFORE DECIDING ATTACK *STRATEGY*, DETERMINE THE ENEMY'S *INTENTIONS*."
"THIS WILL GIVE A SIGNIFICANT TACTICAL ADVANTAGE."
"IN THE PRESENCE OF MORE THAN ONE ENEMY, ESTABLISH A *SCALE OF DANGER*..."

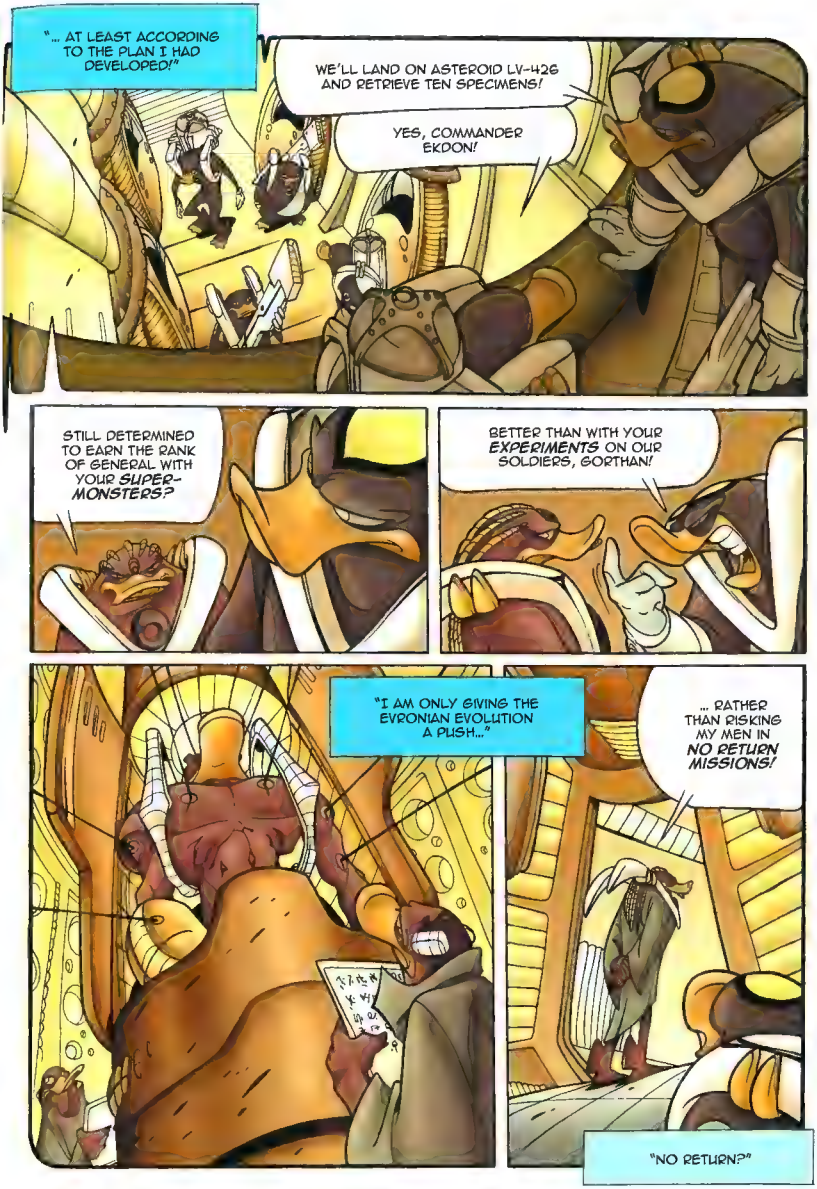

"... AND ATTACK THE STRONGEST ENEMY *FIRST!*"
REEE
OKAY, BUT WHAT IF MY SHOTS DON'T DO ANY-THING?
YOUR *MISERABLE WEAPONS* HAVE NO EFFECT AGAINST IT, GUARDIAN!
INCORRECT OBSER-VATION. THE RAYS SEEM TO *POTEN-TIATE IT.*
ONE, I'D AT LEAST LIKE A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM YOU!

URGH!
MMMF...
YES!

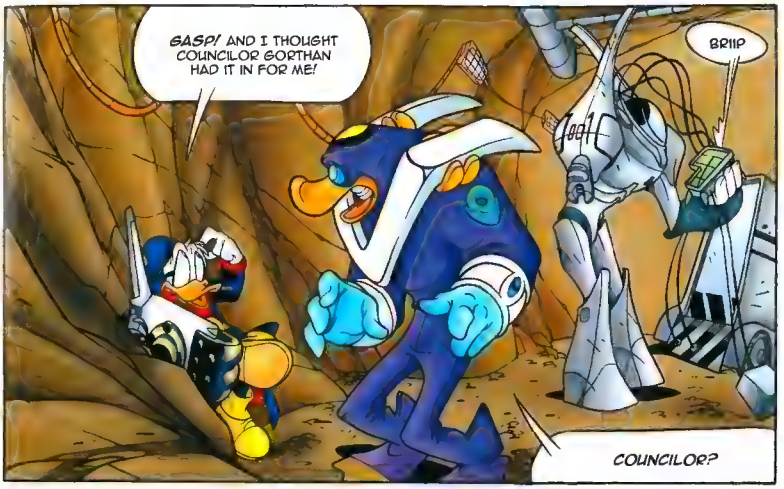
"THE STRATEGY I HAD DEVISED WAS CORRECT."
"THERE IS NO DEFENSE FOR THE GUARDIANS AGAINST THESE CREATURES!"
"THEY ARE UNSTOPPABLE, UNCONTROLLABLE!"
"THEY ENGULF EVERYTHING IN THEIR COLD EMBRACE!"
"WHATEVER THEY COME ACROSS!"
"WHATEVER..."

IT'S ESCAPING! STOP IT, EVRONIAN! STOP IT!
NOT NOW!

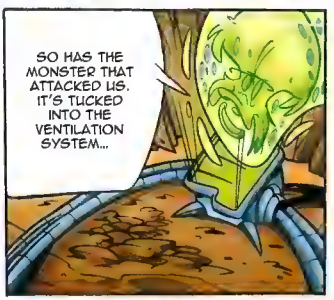
IF I COULD HAVE DEFEATED IT ON MY OWN, I WOULD NOT HAVE SAVED THIS GUARDIAN.
WELL, IT'S TOO BAD YOU EVRONIANS AREN'T AS CAPABLE AS YOU'D LIKE TO THINK!
I WAS THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF EVRON! THE GREATEST OF MY SQUAD!
GREATER... THAN GORTHAN...
GORTHAN?
?!
EHEM... WHY DON'T YOU TELL EVERYTHING FROM THE BEGINNING? I AT LEAST WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU GOT HERE TOGETHER WITH THAT BEAST.
IT'S CALLED PROTOSPECIES XR-24! THE DEFINITIVE WEAPON AGAINST THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY...


"... AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE PLAN I HAD DEVELOPED!"
WE'LL LAND ON ASTEROID LV-426 AND RETRIEVE TEN SPECIMENS!
YES, COMMANDER EKDON!
STILL DETERMINED TO EARN THE RANK OF GENERAL WITH YOUR SUPER-MONSTERS?
BETTER THAN WITH YOUR EXPERIMENTS ON OUR SOLDIERS, GORTHAN!
"I AM ONLY GIVING THE EVRONIAN EVOLUTION A PUSH..."
... RATHER THAN RISKING MY MEN IN NO RETURN MISSIONS!
"NO RETURN?"

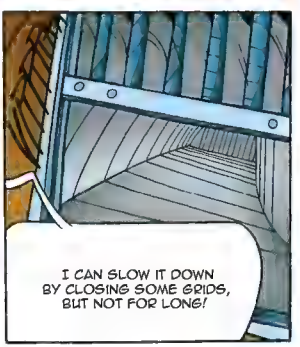
"NO... NOT IF GORTHAN HAD GIVEN ME THE TACTICAL SUPPORT I EXPECTED."
FALL BACK!
GORTHAN, SEND THE SECOND SQUAD!
MISSION CANCELLED. PROTOSPECIES XR-29 IS UNCONTROLLABLE.
LOAD UP AN EVRON-NEUTRALIZER AND WIPE OUT THAT ASTEROID!
GORTHAAAN!
"INSTEAD HE SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY..."
"... TO ELIMINATE HIS ONLY COMPETITOR TO THE HIGH POSITIONS OF COMMAND!"


GASP! AND I THOUGHT COUNCILOR SORTHAN HAD IT IN FOR ME!
BRIIP
COUNCILOR?

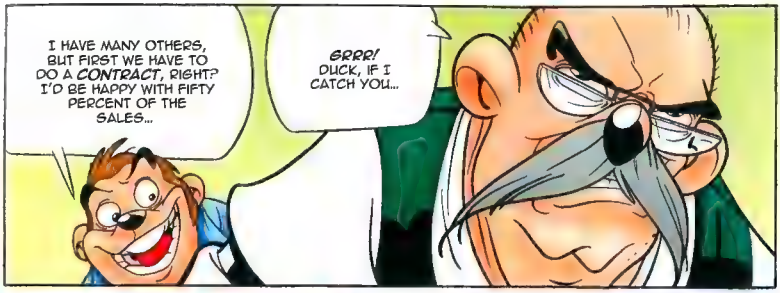
THAT TREACHEROUS B'LOORS HAS COME A LONG WAY!

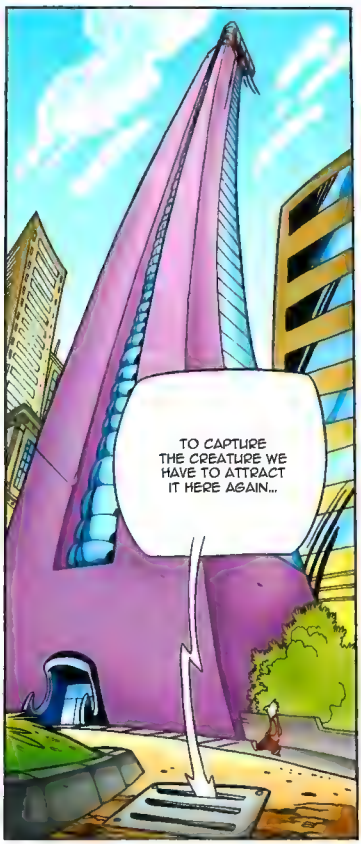

SO HAS THE MONSTER THAT ATTACKED US. IT'S TUCKED INTO THE VENTILATION SYSTEM...

... AND IS NOW TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO REACH THE SURFACE!

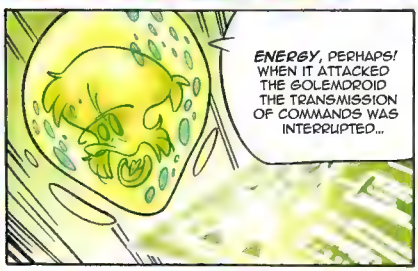

I CAN SLOW IT DOWN BY CLOSING SOME GRIDS, BUT NOT FOR LONG!

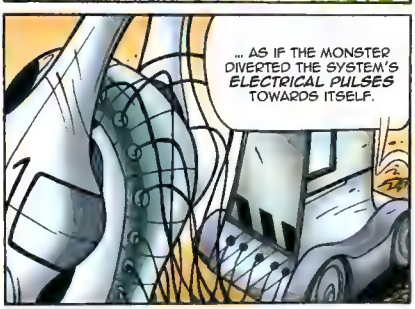
SLAB! WE HAVE TO STOP IT, OR IT WILL BE WORSE THAN THE WORST WEIRD DUCK NOVEL STORY!
AAAARGH!
N°10
W.D.I.
RETURN OF KILLER APPLES
DUCK, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? NOBODY SENDS SUCH TRASH TO PRINTING WITHOUT MY AUTHORIZATION!
WOW! IT'S THE MYTHICAL CHIEF EDITOR!
TUNGSTEN CALAMAR
HE REALLY EXISTS!
HEY, THAT'S MY STORY. SO YOU LIKED IT!
?!


I HAVE MANY OTHERS, BUT FIRST WE HAVE TO DO A *CONTRACT*, RIGHT? I'D BE HAPPY WITH FIFTY PERCENT OF THE SALES...
GRRR! DUCK, IF I CATCH YOU...


TO CAPTURE THE CREATURE WE HAVE TO ATTRACT IT HERE AGAIN...

... BY FINDING OUT WHAT IT'S LOOKING FOR!


ENERGY, PERHAPS! WHEN IT ATTACKED THE GOLEMDROID THE TRANSMISSION OF COMMANDS WAS INTERRUPTED...

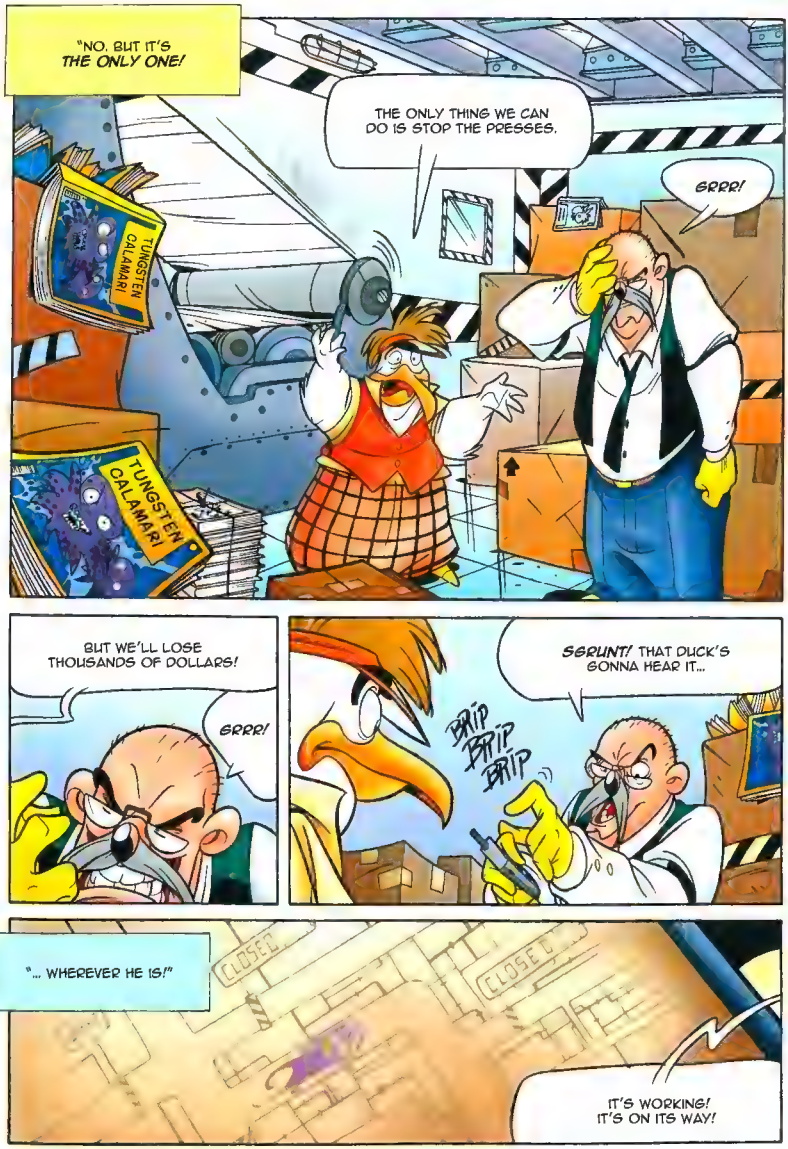

... AS IF THE MONSTER DIVERTED THE SYSTEM'S *ELECTRICAL PULSES* TOWARDS ITSELF.

THAT IS WHY THE GOLEMDROID LOST *COORDINATION* OF ITS MOVEMENTS...
... AND IT ALSO EXPLAINS WHY THE X-TRANSFORMER'S RAYS *POTENTIATED* THE CREATURE!
YES... ENERGY...
WHILE I WAS IN *SUSPENDED ANIMATION*, THE MONSTER ABSORBED MY BODY'S ELECTRICITY THROUGH THE LIFE SUPPORT...
WITHOUT EVER OVERDOING IT, OF COURSE. IT KNEW IT COULDN'T DRY ME UP...
"IT NEEDED ME... I WAS *ITS BATTERY!*"

AHA! THAT'S THE END YOU HAD IN MIND FOR THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY? WELL, THANKS!
AS WE SAY ON EARTH; "WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND!"
RAAAHR! THE GUARDIANS WERE MY ENEMIES...
AND THEY STILL ARE!
CALM DOWN! ARE YOU GONNA START AGAIN?
I BELIEVE WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT IN ORDER TO BEAT THAT MONSTER WE MUST COOPERATE!

FOR EXAMPLE, HOW HAD YOU THOUGHT TO CAPTURE IT AND BRING IT ONTO YOUR SHIP?
THE COOLFLAMIZING RAYS *PARALYZE* THE CREATURE'S MOTOR FUNCTIONS FOR A SHORT WHILE...
THUS WE'D HAVE TIME TO IMPRISON IT IN THIS *ANTI-ELECTRO-LYTIC CAGE!*
PERFECT! THEN I'LL ATTRACT THE MONSTER HERE WITH AN ENERGY SOURCE AND YOU'LL COOLFLAMIZE IT!
I'LL GO BUY THE *BATTERIES!* THEY'RE ON OFFER AT DUCKMALL!
IT WON'T WORK!
BUT YOU JUST SAID...

THE SHOT OF ONE SINGLE EVRON-GUN WAS JUST ENOUGH TO PARALYZE A TENTACLE AND... SAVE YOU!
DO YOU HAVE TO BRING THAT UP?
"NOT EVEN THE FIRE OF AN ENTIRE SQUAD OF EVRON TROOPERS STOPPED THOSE MONSTERS..."
IF ONLY GORTHAN HAD SENT REINFORCEMENTS...
WELL, THIS TIME I'M HERE!
I CAN ENHANCE YOUR WEAPON. IT WILL KNOCK DOWN THE MONSTER WITH ONLY ONE SHOT.
EHEM... DO YOU REALLY THINK HANDING HIM A SUPER-COOLFLAMIZER IS A GOOD IDEA?


"NO. BUT IT'S THE ONLY ONE!
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS STOP THE PRESSES.
GRRR!
TUNGSTEN CALAMARI
TUNGSTEN CALAMARI
BUT WE'LL LOSE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS!
GRRR!
SGRUNT! THAT DUCK'S GONNA HEAR IT...
BRIP BRIP BRIP
"... WHEREVER HE IS!"
CLOSET
CLOSET
IT'S WORKING! IT'S ON ITS WAY!

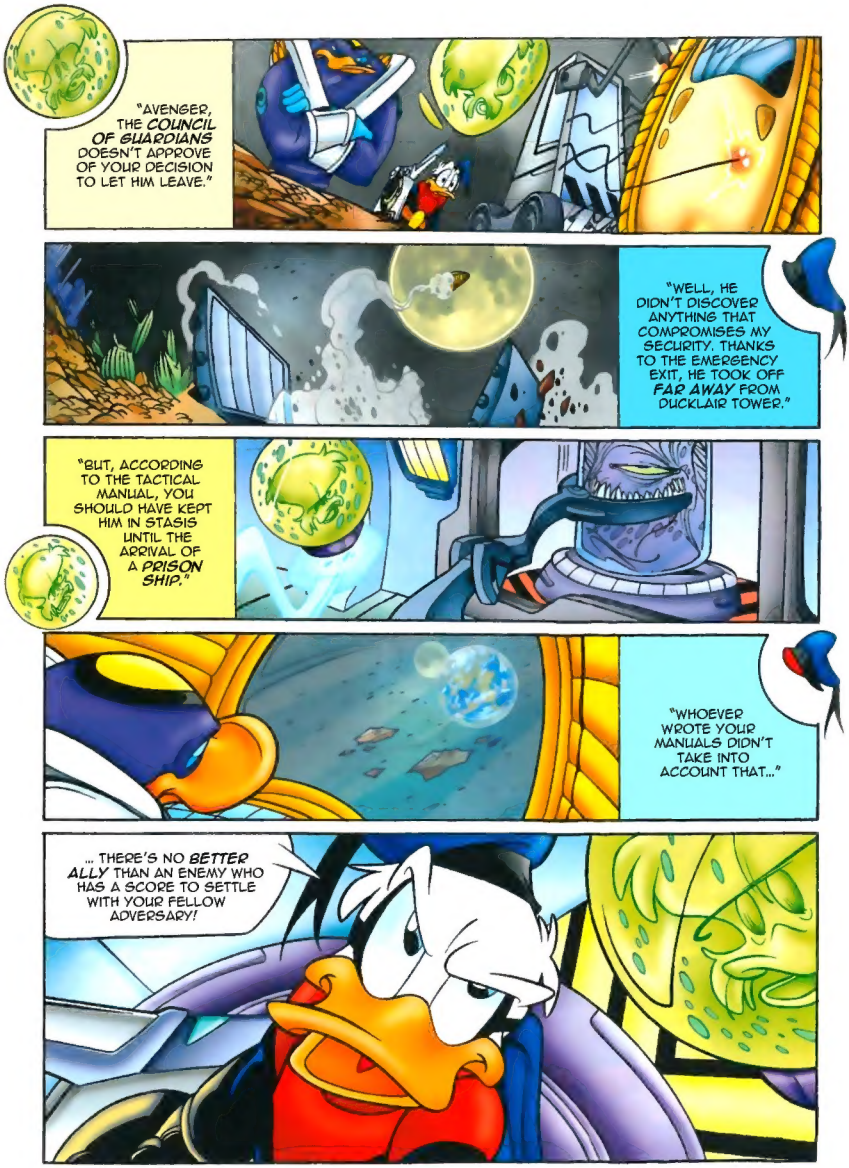
I'VE BLOCKED ALL DUCTS. THE ONLY OPEN GRIDS ARE THOSE THAT LEAD... HERE!
NOW!

BRIIP
CALLIN
MENU
BRIIP
BRIIP
BRIIP
BRIIP
BRIIP
?!
THUD
AAAHH!
GNNNN...

BRR
MENU
CONTACTS
X-TRANSFORMER, DEACTIVATE... GNNN... SECURITY HANDLE...
?!
BEEP
BING
YAWG
IF YOU
ANSWER
YOU'RE FIRED!
OPTIONS
BACK

KOOSH
SSSSS
SSSSSSS
REEEE

OU'RE FIRED!
NO.
TODAY I'VE RECEIVED MORE LOYALTY FROM AN ENEMY THAN I HAVE SOUGHT FROM A COMRADE...
SO... HANDSHAKE?
YOU STILL REMAIN A GUARDIAN. BUT OUT THERE I HAVE A WORSE ENEMY...
... WHO WON'T EXPECT MY RETURN!


"AVENGER, THE COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS DOESN'T APPROVE OF YOUR DECISION TO LET HIM LEAVE."
"WELL, HE DIDN'T DISCOVER ANYTHING THAT COMPROMISES MY SECURITY. THANKS TO THE EMERGENCY EXIT, HE TOOK OFF FAR AWAY FROM DUCKLAIR TOWER."
"BUT, ACCORDING TO THE TACTICAL MANUAL, YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT HIM IN STASIS UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF A PRISON SHIP."
"WHOEVER WROTE YOUR MANUALS DIDN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT..."
... THERE'S NO BETTER ALLY THAN AN ENEMY WHO HAS A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOUR FELLOW ADVERSARY!

WELL, NOW I HAVE TO GO!
"I ALSO HAVE SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE SETTLED."
WON
FIRED?
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT! F-I-R-E-D!
SIGH!
BRIP
BRIP
HUH? HELLO?
CLICK
MR. DUCK, I AM BUDD KEITEL, CHIEF EDITOR OF AMAZING PAPERS!
THE BOSS

I READ THE PREVIEW OF WEIRD DUCK NOVEL'S NEW ISSUE...
ULP!
I KNOW IT WAS YOU WHO PUBLISHED "TUNGSTEN CALAMARI" AGAINST THE WORD OF YOUR CHIEF EDITOR!
WELL, YES... BUT...
THAT STORY IS GENIUS, INNOVATIVE, ASTONISHING!
YOU SURELY HAVE A FLAIR FOR EDITORIAL STRATEGIES. I OFFER YOU THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CHIEF EDITOR! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HE HE! GLAB!
FINE

I Senzanome
TOPOLINO
75 ANNI ENTUSIASMANTI
9 771125 154009 300916
Dal 20 novembre
PK